

Application/Control Number 09/779,288 filed 2/8/01

REMARKS

This amendment is respectfully submitted to place subject Application in condition for allowance. As suggested by Examiner for allowance, Claim 13 has been amended to recite the limitations of Claim 27, and Claim 27 has been canceled. Claims 24 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claims 8, 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from an appropriate claim.

Applicants are pleased to note that Primary Examiner Toomer has withdrawn rejections of the claims under 35 USC 112 and the 102(b) rejection over EP 905217 and Berlowitz (US 5,807,413) in view of the amendments of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 8, 11 to 13, 24, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,807,413 in the name of Robert Jay Wittenbrink, Richard Frank Bauman, Daniel Francis Ryan, and Paul Joseph Berlowitz (Wittenbrink); and in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,723,963 in the name of William F. Taylor (Taylor); and further in view U.S. Patent No. 6,010,545 in the name of Brian William Davies, Rinaldo Capotti and Brid Dilworth, all of the UK (Davies et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Base on the amendments submitted herein, and previously, Applicants urge that Claims 8, 11 to 13, inclusive and 25, all claims now presented, are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request Primary Examiner Toomer to pass subject application for allowance.

Do not hesitate to contact Frederick S. Jerome whose telephone number is (630) 832-7974 (FAX (630) 832-7976) if additional assistance is needed regarding this paper or earlier papers for Applicants.

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Applicants and their undersigned Attorney appreciate Examiner's attention and further consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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